

SENATE BILL 1053
By Womack

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 1, relative to qualifications for teachers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

Section 1. It is the intent of the general assembly to encourage the participation of talented Tennesseans who are not certified teachers and who are willing to take one (1) year from their professions to teach in Tennessee public schools.

Section 2. (a) There is created a two (2) year pilot program in which persons who are not certified teachers but who are engaged in a profession or business enumerated in subsection (c) may apply to be employed as full-time teachers under Title 49.

(b) Applicants for such program shall possess not less than a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and shall possess a record of a minimum of seven (7) years of full-time paid employment.

(c) To be considered for participation in the pilot program, the applicant shall be:

(1) licensed or registered under Title 48, Chapter 2 as:

(A) a broker-dealer; or

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- (B) an investment advisor; or
 - (2) licensed or registered under Title 62 as:
 - (A) an accountant;
 - (B) an architect;
 - (C) an engineer;
 - (D) a landscape architect; or
 - (3) licensed or registered under Title 63 as:
 - (A) an audiologist;
 - (B) a dentist;
 - (C) an osteopathic physician;
 - (D) a pharmacist;
 - (E) a physician;
 - (F) a psychologist;
 - (G) a speech pathologist or
 - (H) a veterinarian; or
 - (4) licensed as an attorney by the supreme court of Tennessee;
- or
- (5) as assistant, associate or full professor, or professor emeritus, possessing a minimum of a master's degree; or
 - (6) a registered nurse who possesses a four (4) year degree in nursing.

(d)(1) The department of education together with the chairmen of the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate shall determine the scope of the pilot program.

(2) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.